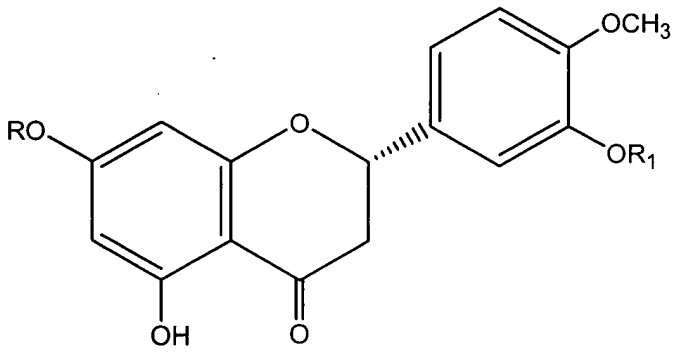
IN THE CLAIMS

Please add new claims 19-28 and cancel claims 2, 3, and 5-18 without prejudice.

1. (Original) A hydrophilic hesperetin pro-form of the formula



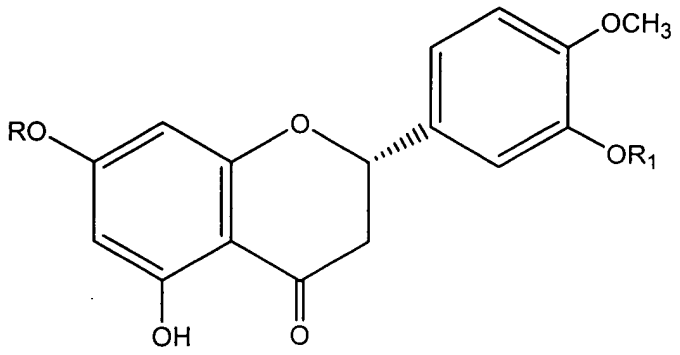
wherein:

R is an –H-, and R_1 is selected from the group consisting of an organic phosphoric acid salt, an organic sulfuric acid salt, an inorganic phosphoric acid salt and an inorganic sulfuric acid salt, or R_1 is an –H- and R is selected from the group consisting of an organic phosphoric acid salt, an organic sulfuric acid salt, an inorganic phosphoric acid salt and an inorganic sulfuric acid salt.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition suitable for topical or oral administration in an individual, said composition comprising a hydrophilic hesperetin pro-form and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said hesperetin pro-form has the formula:



wherein:

R is an –H-, and R_1 is selected from the group consisting of an organic phosphoric acid salt, an organic sulfuric acid salt, an inorganic phosphoric acid salt and an inorganic sulfuric acid salt, or R_1 is an –H- and R is selected from the group consisting of an organic phosphoric acid salt, an organic sulfuric acid salt, an inorganic phosphoric acid salt and an inorganic sulfuric acid salt.

5-18. (Cancelled)

19. (New) The hydrophilic hesperetin pro-form of claim 1, wherein R is an -H-, and R_1 is selected from the group consisting of an organic phosphoric acid salt or an inorganic phosphoric acid salt, or R_1 is an –H- and R is selected from the group consisting of an organic phosphoric acid salt or an inorganic phosphoric acid salt.

20. (New) The hydrophilic hesperetin pro-form of claim 19, wherein R is an -H-, and R_1 is an organic phosphoric acid salt, or R_1 is an-H- and R is an organic phosphoric acid salt.

21. (New) The hydrophilic hesperetin pro-form of claim 19, wherein the organic phosphoric acid salt is selected from pharmaceutically acceptable cationic forms of aliphatic amines, substituted aliphatic amines, aromatic amines, heterocyclic amines, and amino acids.

22. (New) The hydrophilic hesperetin pro-form of claim 19, wherein R is an -H-, and R_1 is an inorganic phosphoric acid salt, or R_1 is an-H- and R is an inorganic phosphoric acid salt.

23. (New) The hydrophilic hesperetin pro-form of claim 22, wherein the inorganic phosphoric acid salt is selected from pharmaceutically acceptable cations of monovalent metals, divalent metals, trivalent metals, and ammonia.

24. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 4, wherein R is an -H-, and R_1 is selected from the group consisting of an organic phosphoric acid salt or an inorganic phosphoric acid salt, or R_1 is an –H- and R is selected from the group consisting of an organic phosphoric acid salt or an inorganic phosphoric acid salt.

25. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 24, wherein R is an -H-, and R_1 is an organic phosphoric acid salt, or R_1 is an-H- and R is an organic phosphoric acid salt.

26. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 24, wherein the organic phosphoric acid salt is selected from pharmaceutically acceptable cationic forms of aliphatic amines, substituted aliphatic amines, aromatic amines, heterocyclic amines, and amino acids.

27. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 24, wherein R is an -H-, and R_1 is an inorganic phosphoric acid salt, or R_1 is an-H- and R is an inorganic phosphoric acid salt.

28. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 24, wherein the inorganic phosphoric acid salt is selected from pharmaceutically acceptable cations of monovalent metals, divalent metals, trivalent metals, and ammonia.